

MINUTES - MEETING OF THE
STATE BOARD OF WORKFORCE EDUCATION
AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

February 5, 2009

Chairman Jack Justus called to order the meeting of the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities (SBWECO) at Arkansas Rehabilitation Services, 26 Corporate Hill Drive, Little Rock, at 9:30 a.m.

A record of member attendance is as follows:

PRESENT

Mr. Jack Justus, Chairman	<u>Ex-Officio Nonvoting Members</u>
Mrs. Lucy Ralston	
Mr. Richard Smith	
Mr. Phil Taylor	
Mrs. Martha Dixon	
Mr. William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr., Ex-Officio Secretary	

ABSENT

Mr. Justin Mitchell	<u>Ex-Officio Nonvoting Members</u>
Mrs. Kathy Scarsdale	Dr. Ken James
	Dr. Jim Purcell

A. ACTION ITEM – APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 11, 2008

On motion by Mr. Smith and second by Mrs. Ralston, the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities unanimously approved the minutes of December 11, 2008.

B. ACTION ITEM – AUTHORIZATION OF EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT AND STIPEND FOR BOARD MEMBERS PERFORMING OFFICIAL BOARD DUTIES

Mr. Charles Brown, associate director for finance, recommended that the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities approve by a majority vote the authorization of payment to its members a stipend not to exceed eighty-five dollars (\$85) per meeting attended. The Board action will be effective January 1, 2009, (as required by Ark. Code Ann. 25-16-904).

Mr. Brown also recommended that the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities approve by a majority vote the authorization of expense reimbursement for each board member for performing official board duties. This vote (as required by Ark. Code Ann. 25-16-902) indicates that board members will comply with an expense reimbursement that will not exceed the rate established for state employees by state travel regulations.

On motion by Mr. Smith and second by Mrs. Dixon, the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities unanimously approved the authorization of expense

reimbursement and stipend for board members performing official board duties.

C. INFORMATIONAL ITEM – ARKANSAS REHABILITATION SERVICES – GENERAL IMPROVEMENT FUNDS RELEASE

John Wright, chief fiscal officer for Arkansas Rehabilitation Services reported stated that pursuant to provisions of Act 1753 of 2007, General Improvement Funds in the amount of \$500,000 were authorized for release for maintenance, renovation, equipping, construction, improvement, upgrade and repair projects for all state-owned real property and facilities.

General Improvement priorities for the Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center include, repair or replacement of the secondary electrical system; repair to the boiler room and eventual replacement of the boilers, and asbestos abatement and removal from one building.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- A. Shared the *Workforce Counselor*
- B. Recognized John Davidson, deputy director, who received the Sisyphus Award for promoting career academies in Arkansas
- C. The department's budget was flat-lined – no increases
- D. Shared SB 107, which is an act to prohibit approval of certain cosmetological schools in public educational institutions
- E. Said that the department will seek lottery funding for the Student Loan Forgiveness Program

Announcements

Retirement – Barbara Lewis, Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center, Administrator – Judy Smith has been appointed interim administrator

Retirement – Roy Albert, Assistant Commissioner, Program Planning & Development & Evaluation – Randy Parker has been promoted to the position

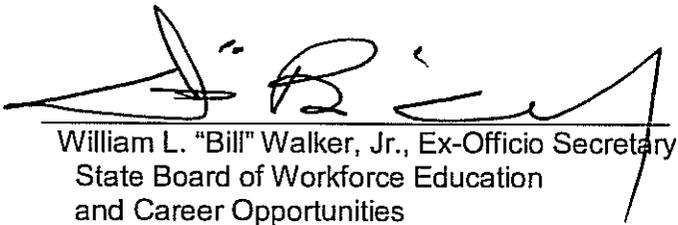
Annual SMT Retreat – August 26-28 2009 – TBA

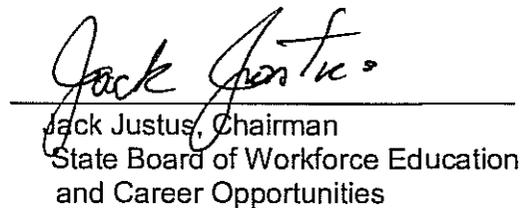
Joint SMT/Managers Meeting, Hot Springs – May 19, 2009

Legislation will be filed to change the agency name from Department of Workforce Education to Department of Career Education

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Justus adjourned the meeting at 10:50 a.m.


William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr., Ex-Officio Secretary
State Board of Workforce Education
and Career Opportunities


Jack Justus, Chairman
State Board of Workforce Education
and Career Opportunities